(b) to (d) The IIPA has submitted its recommendations to the KVIC and the same are under examination by the Commission. Government will take appropriate action as and when the KVIC refer the matter to them after due consideration of the recommendations made by the IIPA.

Simplification of Trade Procedures with Pakistan

147. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan, in order to improve trade relations with India, have allowed lifting of restrictions on trade; and

(b) if so, whether India will also simplify trade procedures and other formalities to boost exports of India to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) As far as policies and procedures relating to exports from India to Pakistan are concerned, they are identical to the policies and procedures applicable to exports to any other part of the world.

Offences against the Weaker Sections of Society

148. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the present law with a view to make it more stringent for the offences against the weaker sections of the society which are on the increase;

(b) whether Government propose to create separate courts for the trial of such offences; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring the aforementioned legislation in the current session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Proposals to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to provide, *inter alia*, for inclusion of certain offences and for enhanced penalties for some existing offences, and also to provide for the mandatory establishment of Special Courts exclusively for trying offences under the Act, are under the consideration of the Government. A proposal to amend the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 to provide for the mandatory establishment of Special Mobile Courts exclusively for trying offences under that Act is also under consideration.

Steps to Eliminate Child Labour

149. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different steps taken/initiated/contemplated to eliminate child labour in India;

(b) whether Union Government have issued any policy directives in this regard to the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of different States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government have taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, the problem of child labour is being tackled through (i) Legislation; (ii) General Development Programmes for the benefit of children; and (iii) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects.

A comprehensive law namely, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 already exists to prohibit the employment of children in 7 occupations 18 processes. In addition, for safeguarding the interests of children, there are

protective provisions in various other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952 and Motor Transport (Workers) Act, 1961 etc. The approach of the Government is to implement all the child related provisions of the laws in a harmonious fashion.

Government is presently engaged in the task of elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations, which is estimated at 20 lakhs, by the year 2000 A.D. So far 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned to cover around 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend etc. Apart from this, a massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched against the evil of child labour at national, regional and district levels. Funds for district level awareness campaigns have been released to 133 most child labour endemic districts in the country to sensitize people against the practice of child labour.

(b) to (d) Apart from rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations, fresh entry of children is sought to be prevented through convergence of services under different schemes like IRDP, JRY, IAY, EAS implemented by Ministries of Government of India and Departments of State Governments in child labour endemic districts with a view to providing economic sustainance for the parents of children taken out of work. With a view to securing convergence of such services, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour adopted a circular on "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" which has been forwarded to all the State Governments for adoption.

Pass Book Scheme

150. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pass Book Scheme under Duty Exemption Scheme of Import-Export Policy has been extended to Visakhapatnam Customs House;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme to Visakhapatnam; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Pass Book Scheme has been initiated only with effect from 1.4.1995 with limited coverage to assess its working.

There is no proposal at present to extend the scheme to Visakhapatnam Customs House.

चीनी मिलों पर किसानों की बकाया राशि

151. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में स्थित चीनी मिलों पर गन्ना उत्पादक किसानों के गन्ने की भारी मात्रा में बिक्री से संबंधित राशि बकाया थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अप्रैल, 1996 के अंत में 1995-96 चीनी पिराई वर्ष के लिए गन्ना उत्पादकों की कितनी राशि चीनी मिलों पर बकाया थी;

(ग) क्या यह राशि चीनी मिलों पर गत वर्षों में भी बकाया रही;

(घ) यदि हां, तो 1993, 1994 और 1995 के सितम्बर माह में कितनी-कितनी राशि गन्ने की बिक्री के संबंध में उत्पादकों को वसूल करनी थी;

(ङ) क्या इस बकाया राशि पर किसानों को ब्याज दिलवाने का प्रावधान सरकार ने किया है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) और (ख) देश में चीनी फैक्ट्रियों द्वारा दी गई उपलब्ध सूचना के आधार पर कृषकों को दिनांक 30 अप्रैल, 1996 तक चीनी मौसम 1995-96 से संबंधित गन्ना मूल्य बकाया 1511.06 करोड़ रुपये था जो कि कुल देय गन्ना मूल्य के 21.3% के बराबर है।